

LETTERS FROM MR. FRANK N. MEYER, AGRICULTURAL EXPLORER, TIFLIS, CAUCASUS, RUSSIA. In a letter of April 1, he says that Mr. A. C. Rolloff, Director of the Botanical Garden at Tiflis, is unusually well informed in regard to the economic products of the Caucasus, and wants to exchange seeds and plants with the Department. He offers Caucasian varieties of various fruits, as apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums, pomegranates, etc.; also seeds and plants of various native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. The Department of Agriculture there has a corps of foresters all over the country, and practically any plant described from the Caucasus can be obtained at the Tiflis Botanical Garden. They have the largest collection in the world of native Caucasian plants and are increasing it all the time. Mr. Rolloff offers to send seeds of *Medicago glutinosa*, a very promising Caucasian alfalfa, and other drought resistant legumes adapted for fodder plants. April 2 he writes that in Asia Minor there are varieties of *Prunus lauro-cerasus* cultivated for their fruits, which are large and sweet and are considered by the Turks to be an especially fine fruit. Dr. Schmidt, Director of the Caucasian Museum, recommends that we try all the native Caucasian species of *Trifolium*, 53 of them. He recommends *Trifolium resupinatum* as a lawn plant on account of its delicious perfume. He says the finest hazelnuts grow around Trebizond and Kerasund in Asia Minor, and the Turkish Government has prohibited their exportation. He has heard that bamboos grown in colder localities do not split like those grown in the subtropical climate of Chakva. There are large clumps of *Phyllostachys quilioides*, *P. mitis*, and *P. aurea*, growing here and there in the Caucasus, and the people are beginning to make bamboo furniture. All these three species have stood nearly 10° below zero F. in Tiflis, and were not killed. The Government intends to build factories for utilizing the bamboos as soon as the supply gets large enough to warrant the outlay.

RECENT VISITORS.

BRAZIL. Doctor Edmundo Navarro de Andrade represents the Paulista R. R. Co., one of the largest railroads in Brazil. He is especially interested in the commercial growing of eucalypts and has a collection of over 73 varieties growing near Sao Paulo. He not only has these eucalypts, but has made a collection of the forest trees of Brazil, at least of his immediate region, and maintains an arboretum from which he can